

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 141913
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /027 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: IO/UNP:DSCHIELE:MR

APPROVED BY: IO:MESWOPE

-----181154Z 130366 /40

O 180141Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141913

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 1919 ACTION SECSTATE SANTIAGO JUN
16, 1977

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1919

DEPT PASS TO SECRETARY VANCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, CI, SHUM, ECLA, PINS

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS PROTESTERS IN UNECLA OFFICE IN SANTIAGO

1. SYG WALDHEIM SPOKE TO AMBASSADOR LEONARD LATE JUNE 15,
FOLLOWING UNSC INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, CONCERNING INCIDENT
PRESENTLY IN PROGRESS AT ECLA OFFICES IN SANTIAGO. HE
REPORTED THAT A GROUP OF 24 WOMEN AND TWO MEN, CLAIMING TO
BE REPRESENTING RELATIVES OF 501 INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN
DETAINED BY THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND WHOSE WHEREABOUTS
ARE UNKNOWN, ENTERED THE ECLA OFFICES JUNE 14 AND REMAIN
THERE AS OF LATE JUNE 15. THEY HAVE REFUSED ALL FOOD
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 141913

AND INSISTED THEY WOULD NOT EMERGE UNTIL THEY HAD RECEIVED
SATISFACTORY COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND
RESPONSE TO THEIR DEMANDS FROM PRESIDENT PINOCHET.

2. GROUP SEEKS INFORMATION ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS AND WELFARE
OF 501 DETAINED CHILEAN NATIONALS. THEY ASK PINOCHET TO
COMMIT HIMSELF PUBLICLY TO AN INTERNATIONAL BODY LIKE THE

UN THAT HE WILL ACCEDE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ENTRY INTO CHILE OF A UN COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION. THEY ALSO DEMAND HIS ASSURANCES OF THE SAFETY OF ALL RELATIVES OF DETAINED PERSONS.

3. UN HEADQUARTERS RECEIVED FIRST REPORT OF THIS INCIDENT JUNE 14 AND HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE PROTESTING GROUP SINCE. THEY HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT THAT THIS IS CONSIDERED A MATTER FOR THE UN TO HANDLE, AND THE GOC HAS REFRAINED FROM STATIONING ADDITIONAL POLICE IN THE VICINITY OF THE ECLA OFFICES OR OTHERWISE TAKING A HAND. IN INSTRUCTIONS TO UN PERSONNEL DEALING WITH THE PROTESTERS, UN HEADQUARTERS HAS SUGGESTED THAT IF IT APPEARED TO BE REASSURING TO THEM THE UN REPS COULD TAKE DOWN THEIR NAMES AND ADDRESSES ON A VOLUNTARY AND CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. UN REPS ARE INSTRUCTED NOT TO OFFER SLEEPING FACILITIES OR FOOD, AND NOT TO MAKE PRESS STATEMENTS PENDING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. SANTIAGO UN REPS ARE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM GOC OF THE CONTENTS OF WALDHEIM MESSAGE TO PROTESTERS QUOTED IN PARA 4 BELOW, AND TO INDICATE TO THE GOC THAT THE UN DOES NOT PROPOSE TO DO ANYTHING REGARDING THE SITUATION IN CHILE AS A RESULT OF THIS DEMONSTRATION THAT IT WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE DOING IN ANY EVENT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO JUNE 14 MESSAGE FROM THE PROTESTERS, WALDHEIM TRANSMITTED A RESPONSE VIA CABLE, TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

QUOTE 1. YOUR MESSAGE HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO NEW YORK AND STUDIED PERSONALLY BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 141913

2. SECRETARY GENERAL WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE UN HAS BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SEEKING TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE, INCLUDING CLARIFICATION OF FATE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED OR ARE IMPRISONED. THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN PURSUED PERSONALLY BY SECRETARY GENERAL THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF HIS OWN GOOD OFFICES. IN NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS HE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK TO CLARIFY AND AMELIORATE SITUATION.

3. IN ADDITION THERE IS A SPECIAL AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE LOCATED IN GENEVA AND COPY OF YOUR MESSAGE WILL BE PROVIDED TO THIS IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATORY COMMISSION.

4. THE SECRETARY GENERAL CONSIDERS THEREFORE THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE GROUP MEMBERS, OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND OF THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE WOULD BEST BE SERVED IF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE SIT-IN, WHICH HE OF COURSE CANNOT CONDONE, IMMEDIATELY

VACATE THE ECLA PREMISES IN A PEACEFUL MANNER. UNQUOTE

5. AFTER CONSIDERING THE SITUATION TODAY, INCLUDING EXTENDED TELEPHONIC DISCUSSIONS WITH SANTIAGO BY LEGAL ADVISOR SUY AND CONSULTATION WITH ECLA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IGLESIAS (WHO WAS TRANSITTING MIAMI EN ROUTE TO SANTIAGO FROM HAVANA MEETING ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS), SYG DETERMINED TO TRANSMIT FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET:

QUOTE EXCELLENCY,

AS YOUR KNOW THE FATE OF MANY CHILEAN NATIONALS WHO HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED ON POLITICAL CHARGES OR WHO ARE UNACCOUNTED FOR HAS BEEN A MATTER OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONCERN FOR SOME TIME. THIS SUBJECT HAS PREOCCUPIED ME IN THE PAST AND I CONTINUE TO BE DEEPLY CONCERNED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 141913

FOR THE SAKE OF THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED AND THEIR FAMILIES, I VENTURE TO APPEAL TO YOU ON PURELY HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS TO TAKE POSSIBLE STEPS TO PROVIDE REASSURANCE ABOUT THE FATE OF THOSE INVOLVED. IN THIS CONNEXION I WISH TO REITERATE THAT I BELIEVE THAT YOUR UNCONDITIONAL AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE A VITIT FROM THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE WOULD BE A CONSTRUCTIVE MOVE. A SIGNIFICANT STEP ON YOUR PART IN THIS DIRECTION AT THIS TIME WOULD REDOUND TO THE CREDIT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE AND WOULD BE SEEN AS A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH IS NOW THE SUBJECT OF SO MUCH WORLD ATTENTION. UNQUOTE

6. WALDHEIM SUGGESTED THAT, SINCE IN HIS VIEW IT WAS INCUMBENT UPON HIM TO REACT PUBLICLY IN THIS WAY REGARDLESS OF THE RESPONSE OF THE GOC, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HIM, TO THE UN AND TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS GENERALLY IF THE USG WOULD UNDERTAKE A PARALLEL APPROACH TO THE GOC. HE SUGGESTED THAT A USG APPROACH NOT BE TIED SIMPLY TO THE CURRENT DEMONSTRATION IN THE ECLA OFFICES, BUT SINCE THE INCIDENT IS CERTAIN TO BE GIVEN WORLDWIDE PRESS HEADLINE ATTENTION THE USG COULD EMPHASIZE LONGER-TERM CONCERNS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF THE INCIDENT AND CHILE'S IMAGE. HE MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY THAT SECRETARY VANCE MIGHT CONTRIBUTE THROUGH CONTACT WITH THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN GRENADA.

7. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH USYG BUFFUM AND SUY, THEY TOO URGED USG SUPPORT FOR THE SYG IN THIS SITUATION. WHILE NOT PRESUMING TO SUGGEST THE FORM OF THE US APPROACH TO GOC, THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE US NOT DIRECTLY URGE

A VISIT BY THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP, ALTHOUGH THEY RECALLED WE HAD SUPPORTED THE FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE NOTION OF A VISIT BY IT. THEY SUGGESTED INSTEAD THAT THE US MESSAGE TO THE GOC SPEAK OF THE DESIRABILITY OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DETAINEES; THE POSITIVE EFFECT OF AN ASSURANCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 141913

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY OF THE FAMILIES OF ALL DETAINEES, AND OF THE SECURITY FROM HARRASSMENT OF THE DEMONSTRATORS PRESENTLY OCCUPYING THE ECLA OFFICES; AND THE POSITIVE INTERNATIONAL EFFECT OF A MORE LIBERAL AMNESTY PROGRAM BY THE GOC. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, UNSYG'S OFFICE WOULD BE GRATIFIED BY ANY SUPPORTIVE US PARALLEL ACTION, NO MATTER HOW GENERALIZED ITS TERMS.

8. BUFFUM AND SUY RELATED THAT IGLESIAS HAD BEEN SHOWN UNUSUAL ATTENTION BY FIDEL CASTRO DURING HIS STAY IN HAVANA. IN ADDITION TO EXTENDED TWO-HOUR CONVERSATION JUNE 14, CASTRO PERSONALLY ESCORTED IGLESIAS TO THE AIRPORT IN HAVANA JUNE 15. AT SEVERAL POINTS IN THE CONVERSATION, APARENTLY, CASTRO RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE DEMONSTRATION AT ECLA/SANTIAGO. IGLESIAS HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT CASTRO PROBABLY INTENDED TO PURSUE THE INCIDENT AS A MAJOR PROPAGANDA PROJECT. UN OFFICIALS COUPLED THIS WITH ECLA CONFERENCE. WOMEN'S RIGHTS MEETING, OAS MINISTERIAL AND RISING UN FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS GENERALLY, ADDING UP TO SERIOUS CONCERN THAT UNSYG, AT LEAST, MAY BE FACED WITH A MAJOR ONSLAUGHT IN THIS AREA THAT WILL BE HARD TO MANAGE. THEY BELIEVE THAT INITIAL REACTIONS TO THE INCIDENT IN SANTIAGO MAY PROVE TO BE IMPORTANT IN MANAGEMENT OF THIS PROBLEM IN COMING MONTHS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, DETENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE141913
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNP:DSCHIELE:MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770642/aaaabkuz.tel
Line Count: 206
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2103797
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS PROTESTERS IN UNECLA OFFICE IN SANTIAGO
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, PINS, CI, ECLA
To: NATO POSTS BERN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/526a827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009